THE GAMBIA

REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE 1947

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INTRODUCTION.

1. Much of the ambitious development plan contained in the initial report presented in 1943 on Development and Welfare in the Gambia has had to be discarded; and review by experts has shown that some of the schemes contemplated are impracticable. Changes in local or external circumstance have necessitated appreciable modification of certain schemes.

2. Funds were generously made available by His Majesty's Government in 1940 and again in 1945 by separate Acts of Parliament. Funds under the 1940 Act lapsed on the 31st March, 1945, and Appendix 'A' to this report contains details of the schemes approved under that Act. Funds provided under the 1945 Act were £800,000 for general development and £500,000 for Bathurst—Kombo development over the ten years ending in 1955.

3. The Secretary of State has approved of the following allocation of funds for general development as suggested by Government:—

Agriculture	£99,000
Reserves	76,000
Veterinary	90,000
Education	162,000
Medical and Health	264,000
Minor Industries	45,000
Schemes outstanding at 1st April 1945 ...	14,000
General Reserve	50,000
	£800,000

4. Schemes under the above allocations are listed in Appendix 'B'.

5. These schemes will now be described under their various heads.

AGRICULTURE.

6. £175,000 represents the total which will be available if the Agricultural reserve is taken into account. Out of this sum, the following schemes have already been approved.

(b) Scheme No. D728.

This scheme allows for the expenditure of £32,000 up to 1950/51, and represents the first part of the ten year development programme of the Agricultural Department. The projects which it covers include the development of the rice farm at Jenoi for which provision was made originally in scheme D247, which is now merged in this scheme; the training of a regular flow of locally-recruited staff to deal with the increased agricultural work envisaged; the undertaking of irrigation projects; the improvement of poultry and stock; and the introduction of certain small scale experiments in mechanical cultivation. Subject to the progress achieved, it is proposed that when this agricultural programme is reviewed in 1950, a further application should be submitted on similar lines for the remainder of the ten year period covered by the Act, bringing the total expenditure up to £63,710.

(b) Scheme No. D723.

An additional grant of £8,000 has been made under this scheme to cover the cost of machinery used by the Agricultural Department for mechanised cultivation of rice at Jenoi in co-operation with the Nutrition Field Working Party.

(b) Scheme No. D769.

The cost of operating the machinery provided by scheme No. D723 for the cultivation of rice during a period of three years is provided from a grant of £29,000 which also covers the erection of work shops, stores and staff quarters, the purchase of spare parts and tools, fertilisers, seeds, etc., as well as the salaries of the additional staff required. During the latter part of the year it was decided, owing to the difficulties encountered in the mechanical production of rice which would take some time to overcome that mechanical cultivation of groundnuts and coos should be undertaken instead in order to provide the food and cash crops required by the Nutrition Field Working Party for their experiment at Genieri. It thus became necessary to apply for a further grant of £18,140 for an experiment

in the mechanical cultivation of groundnuts and cereals to be conducted by the Agricultural Department in collaboration with the Nutrition Field Working Party.

On the results of these experiments must depend the use to which the remaining £56,140 out of the total of £175,000 available for agriculture from Colonial Development and Welfare Act sources is to be put in the second period of the ten year programme.

VETERINARY.

Schemes Nos. D216 and 216a.

7. Under these schemes £72,800 was provided for the expansion of veterinary work in the Gambia and for the cost of a joint-department with Sierra Leone. Of this amount £45,000 has been debited to the Gambia allocation of Colonial Development and Welfare Act funds. This scheme lapses at the end of 1948 and the Governments of Sierra Leone and the Gambia have under considerable plans for the further period of the ten year programme for which £45,000 will remain from the total allocation of £90,000 for veterinary work.

EDUCATION.

Scheme No. D727.

8. The first stages of the educational development policy were partially financed from scheme No. D298; they have been carried a stage further with funds from scheme D727, in which the former scheme is merged.

The latter scheme provides the necessary financial assistance for Government to operate the Infants and Primary Schools in Bathurst which had previously been operated by the Missions. They are now managed as Government Schools through their respective management committees. A grant of £78,200 up to the end of 1950 provides for these schools, and also for the salary of an Education Officer, Protectorate, who, besides acting as Principal of the Armitage School at Georgetown, will assist in a project now under preparation for training teachers. The Education Officer will also give general supervision to the work of the village schools which are being set up by the Local Authorities as rapidly as the supply of teachers and funds will permit.

9. It is proposed that when this scheme lapses in 1950 an increasing proportion of the costs of education should be borne by revenue, and that the grant to be sought for the second part of the ten year period should be limited to £45,000. At the end of the period, the whole cost would thus become a charge on local funds. It is estimated that expenditure under Schemes D298 and D727

together with the £45,000 referred to above will absorb £132,000 of the £162,000 allocated for educational development. The remaining £30,000 will be used to erect new buildings for Armitage School, token provision for which is included in the 1948 Estimates.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH.

Scheme No. D548.

10. The original scheme D223 which had been approved for the expansion of the work of this department under the 1940 Act, was merged in 1945 into a new scheme D548, by which the total grant was increased from £37,186 to £49,511, and the period of the scheme extended. The latter scheme provides for development on lines very similar to those which had been followed under D223 and includes the local training of medical probationers and nurses as well as continued financial support of the dental student in training in the United Kingdom. The employment of additional staff after training, which enabled additional medical units to be introduced in the Protectorate is also included in the scheme. The allocation of £264,000 under the 1945 Act is on a smaller scale than originally envisaged when plans for training staff under schemes D223 and D548 were drawn up; and there may be a small surplus of trained staff which could be used for expansion of the plans at present proposed, should such expansion be found possible. A formal application for a grant of £248,000 has now been submitted, and has received the approval of the Secretary of State since the end of the year. This sum represents the total of £264,000 allocated to the Medical Department, less £16,000 which it is estimated will have been received since the 31st March, 1946, under scheme D548, which is now to merge into the new scheme.

11. It is proposed to rebuild the Victoria Hospital and £80,000 of this grant will be spent on erecting the buildings which will complete the first part of this project. A sum of £8,000 for the erection of health centres at Brikama and Mansa-Konko, headquarters of the Western and Central Divisions respectively, and at the important groundnut trading centre of Kuntaur is also provided for by this grant. The remaining £160,000 is intended to supplement, over the ten year period, the amount which Government can afford to devote to Medical and Health services from its own revenue. It is proposed that the annual contribution to be made under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act should decrease from £25,000 in 1948 to £16,000 in 1954, while the contribution from revenue should increase from £50,800 to £67,200 during that period.

MINOR INDUSTRIES.

Schemes Nos. D764 and D764A.

12. These schemes comprise a grant of £21,000 for the five years 1947 to 1951 inclusive and provide for all the expenditure of the Department of Supplies and Minor Industries except expenditure on assistance in the development of private enterprise as distinct from demonstrations and experiments.

13. There will remain a sum of £24,000 in the allocation mentioned under Minor Industries in paragraph 3 above which will be available for *ad hoc* schemes for conducting experiments and demonstrating projects which might develop into minor industries as well as for providing continued assistance to the Department of Supplies and Minor Industries in the final three years of the ten year programme.

SCHEMES OUTSTANDING AT 1ST APRIL, 1945.

14. These schemes were approved under the 1940 Act, have not been superseded by subsequent schemes under the 1945 Act and continued in operation. It was necessary therefore to allow for their completion when allocating funds under the 1945 Act; and they are shown as still existing in Appendix ' A '.

BATHURST AND KOMBO DEVELOPMENT.

15. The contribution of £30,000 under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, 1940, to Scheme D263, for the improvement of conditions in Bathurst and the Kombo, was mainly spent in investigations and preliminary work with a view to carrying out as early as possible a far reaching scheme resembling that outlined in Chapters XVI and XVII of the Report on Development and Welfare in the Gambia, involving the move of the seat of Government and a considerable section of the population of Bathurst to a new site in the Kombo.

16. These proposals which had received considerable impetus from the projected construction of a first-class trunk airport in the Kombo. were continued on a reduced scale after the airport project had been abandoned, and when it was already known that the total grant which could be expected for development in this area by the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, 1945, was limited to £500,000. Hopes were entertained that the scheme might still be financially practicable if a loan was raised and contributions were devoted to the scheme from local revenue. The accumulation of other difficulties led, however, to the conclusion that a new approach to the problem of developing the Bathurst—Kombo area was required.

17. The Secretary of State accepted the view that to move the seat of Government to the Kombo was in the changed circumstances impracticable. He gave at the same time the assurance that the sum of £500,000 would remain earmarked for improving the living conditions of the inhabitants of Bathurst and its neighbourhood. The exact uses to which this sum should be put could not all be decided at once but it was immediately clear that the needs of the district could absorb a much larger sum and that judicious planning would be necessary to make the best use of the available funds.

18. Accordingly a revised list of suggested projects for Bathurst and Kombo development was drawn up for consideration. At the same time it was decided that three urgent projects, which had either been begun or had been agreed upon as essential, should be financed from the grant for Bathurst and Kombo development. These were:

(i) The storm water and street drainage scheme for Bathurst (£118,600).

(ii) The installation of static tank latrines for Bathurst. (£20,000).

(iii) The drainage of the Kotu stream.

With regard to (iii), the drainage of the Kotu stream, £48,000 had been the original estimate when it was still proposed that the capital would be moved to the Kombo. The abandonment of this proposal, however, allowed the drainage work to be so reduced as to meet no more than the actual needs of the population resident in the neighbourhood; and the total cost of the Kotu stream drainage will now be considerably less than the original estimate.

19. The end of the year thus saw the sum of approximately £330,000 available for Bathurst and Kombo development, but as yet unallocated. Of the schemes under consideration, the most important is one designed to drain the whole Island of St. Mary and the swamps to the south of the Bathurst—Lamin road extending to some thirty square miles, by building a bund from Half Die to Lamin Creek and by closing the inlet from the sea at Denton Bridge. The Island would then be united with the mainland. If practicable, this undertaking would, by the drying-out of swamps, greatly improve health conditions throughout, and well beyond, the area reclaimed. It would provide building sites to meet all requirements and additional land for cultivation. Other schemes under consideration, all desirable and important in themselves, are necessarily less far-reaching than this major reclamation work which, if achieved, would lay the foundation for every branch of future development in Bathurst and the Kombo.

20. A diagram showing the allocations of proposed expenditure is at Appendix "C".

TRAINING OF A SOCIAL SCIENCE STUDENT.

21. Although not specifically mentioned in the main allocation of Colonial Development and Welfare Act funds at paragraph 3, a grant was also made under scheme D731 of £840 to cover the cost of a two year course in Social Science in the United Kingdom for a Gambian student who has now returned after successfully completing the course. He has been appointed Social Welfare Officer. The full plans for a Social Welfare Department set out on the 1943 "Report on Development and Welfare" have proved beyond the resources of the Colony and its Colonial Development and Welfare Act allocation. The Social Welfare Officer has been lent to the Public Relations Office for experimental work in the Protectorate on mass literacy in the vernacular. He will take up more normal welfare activities shortly.

OTHER SCHEMES.

22. Considerable assistance in the development of the Colony is now received from sources outside the specific allocation of funds to the Gambia under the 1945 Act. An experimental campaign to assist in breaking the vicious circle of poverty, malnutrition and disease, undertaken by the Nutrition Field Working Party of the Colonial Medical Research Council, is in progress in the Protectorate in the village of Genieri and its vicinity. This undertaking was initiated by the Colonial Medical Research Council, but £51,657 is provided from the central research allocation of Colonial Development and Welfare Act funds, which, under Scheme R160, is administered by this Government. The activities of the Working Party include medical, agricultural and sociological work together with a scheme for mass literacy in the vernacular and, although at present restricted to a comparatively small area, the experiment, if successful, may have far reaching results on the future of the Protectorate.

23. An allied but independent enterprise, namely, the Nutrition Field Research Station, is being established by the Colonial Medical Research Council for its own purposes, using the buildings of the old 55th General Hospital at Fajara. £8,000 has been approved for the purchase of these buildings from central Colonial Development and Welfare Act funds under scheme R180 (a). The provision of £97,430 under scheme R180 (b) for the operation of the station is administered by the Colonial Medical Research Council. The nature and extent of the indirect consequences to the Gambia of such an undertaking cannot yet be forseen but they seem likely to afford a substantial contribution to its health and welfare.

24. Finally a considerable sum of money has been allocated by the Secretary of State to provide scholarships for students from the Colonies during the ten year period covered by the Act. Scholarships are awarded yearly and at present one local student is receiving medical training in the United Kingdom and the award of two more scholarships to students from the Gambia is expected in 1948.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS DURING 1947.

25. *Agriculture.*—The cultivation of rice at Jenoi continued but was a failure mainly owing to the salinity of the soil. On the credit side, however, information of value was derived from experiments in mechanical cultivation. Staff quarters were built.

26. *Veterinary.*—A considerable increase in the inoculations against rinderpest was achieved and inoculations against bovine pleuro-pneumonia were carried out for the first time. A veterinary station was opened at Kaur and new buildings at Basse were completed.

27. *Education.*—The number of children attending schools since the Colonial Development and Welfare Grant began to take effect continued to increase. The standard of education reached by applicants for teacher training scholarships was higher than in previous years. Three new rural schools were opened (Sukuta, Bakau and Kintikunda) and an Education Officer was appointed for the Protectorate. He was posted to Georgetown where he could supervise the Armitage School and Native Authority Schools in the neighbourhood. At the same time he undertook the planning of a teacher's training course.

28. *Medical and Health.*—The local training of probationers and nurses continued and a training course for sanitary inspectors was started at Bakau. At Bansang training in nursing was given by the Sister-in-Charge. Two dispensaries and one sub-dispensary were opened in the Protectorate during the year.

29. *Minor Industries.*—Assistance was given by loan to a fishing project and a syndicate was formed for the manufacture of bricks and tiles. The tomato purée factory continued to operate Later in the year a master fisherman assumed duty.

30. *Bathurst and Kombo.*—Work continued with Bathurst drainage and with a modified scheme for the drainage of the Kotu stream. At the end of the year application was made for a grant to provide static tank latrines for Bathurst. A committee was formed to work out a scheme for the reclamation of swamps in the Island of St. Mary.

SCHEMES APPROVED UNDER THE 1940 COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE ACT.

Scheme No.	Department.	Description of Scheme.	Amount of Scheme. £	Amount spent 31/3/1945. £ s. d.	Remarks.
D. 69	Education ...	Educational Training Courses ...	3,661	485 0 0	Lapsed in 1944.
D. 70	Agricultural ...	Agricultural Training Courses ...	1,154	850 18 3	Lapsed in 1945.
D. 71	Medical	Pharmacy and Laboratory Courses ...	488	107 0 0	Lapsed in 1944.
D. 161	Protectorate ...	Senior Commissioner ...	3,900	2,013 4 3	Existing Scheme—See paragraph 14 of Memorandum.
D. 145	Education ...	School Teachers' Salaries	4,860	2,190 0 0	Lapsed w.e.f. 1/1/44 but superseded by Scheme D.298.
D. 223	Medical and Health Services...	Medical and Health ...	37,186	8,440 0 0	Lapsed in 1944 but superseded by Scheme D.548.
D. 247	Agricultural ...	Rice Cultivation ...	15,250	438 11 9	Superseded by Scheme D.728 but retained for Capital Expenditure.
D. 263	Bathurst & Kombo	Development of Kombo	30,000	3,452 15 11	Lapsed in 1945 but superseded by Scheme D.636.
D. 284	Agricultural ...	Colonial Agricultural Scholarships	267	267 0 0	Lapsed.
D. 298	Education ...	Education	44,000	2,829 10 1	Lapsed. Superseded in 1947 by Scheme No. 727.
D. 407	Secretariat ...	Development Committee Secretary	3,500	352 17 [illegible]	Existing Scheme.—See paragraph 14 of Memorandum.

SCHEMES APPROVED UNDER THE 1945 COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE ACT.

Scheme No.	Department.	Description of Scheme.	Amount of Scheme.	Amount of estimated expenditure to 31/12/47.	Balance remaining.	Remarks.
			£			
D.216 & D.216A	Veterinary	Veterinary	(*a*) 72,800	Scheme controlled by Sierra Leone Government.		(a) £45,000 allocated to Gambia Government. See para. 7 of Memorandum.
				£	£	
D548	Medical and Health ...	Medical and Health ...	49,511	35,500	14,011	Lapsed 31/12/47 but superseded by scheme D883.
D636	Public Utilities Dept.	Development of Bathurst & Kombo	(*b*) 282,740	17,669	150.429	(b) £116,140 relinquished. See Scheme D548. balance of £166,600—see para. 16 of Memorandum.
D592	Public Utilities Dept	Road & Ferry Invetigations.	6,620	130	6,490	Abandoned. Balance of £6,490 relinquished.
D727	Education	Education	78.200	17,669	60,531	Scheme commenced in 1947. See para. 8 of Memorandum.
D728	Agricultural	Improvement of Agricultural methods.	32,000	6.705	25,295	Scheme commenced in 1947. See para. 6 of Memorandum.
D731	—	Social Science Student	840	800	40	Lapsed in 1946.
D764 & D764A	Department of Supplies and Minor Industries	Development of Minor Industries.	21,000	3,229	17,771	Scheme commenced in 1947. See para. 12 of Memorandum.
D723	Agricultural	Purchase of Agricultural Machinery.	8,000	8,000	Nil	Scheme commenced in 1947. See para. 6 of Memorandum.
D769	Agricultural	Maintenance & Operation of Machinery.	29,000	1,737	27,263	Scheme commenced in 1947. See para. 6 of Memorandum.
D883	Medical and Health ...	Medical & health	163,000	Nil	163,000	Scheme commenced in 1948. See Scheme D548.